

# Regional AGENDA

## METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL

October 1999

### Council prepares for challenging 2000 budget

#### YEAR 2000 Budget

Promising to deliver the best services possible while keeping the county's budget "lean and mean," two budget leaders from the Metropolitan King County Council recently called on fellow councilmembers to limit the growth of government as they review the proposed 2000 King County Budget.

Jane Hague, chair of the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee, and Greg Nickels, vice chair of the committee, said the proposed 2000 King County budget must put responsible government first. Their comments followed King County Executive Ron Sims' 2000 budget address to the full council on Monday, Oct. 11.

Hague said this budget is anything but run of the mill. "Voters are obviously concerned with the growth of government. They want a responsible and efficient government that will continue to provide a high level of service. My goal is to meet that demand. I am looking forward to working on a budget over the next several weeks that will protect voters' pocketbooks," she concluded.

Nickels emphasized that the county must protect funding for critical, basic regional services. "Making unwise cuts in public health and safety, or essential human services could be disastrous. The county cannot afford to put public health at risk."

The public will have several opportunities to testify on the proposed budget. The council, for the third consecutive year, will take public testimony via the Internet. Citizens who want to participate in "cyber-democracy" can do so by visiting the council's 2000 budget website at [www.metrokc.gov/mkcc/Budget](http://www.metrokc.gov/mkcc/Budget) and following the "cyber-democracy" links. The council's budget page will be updated regularly to provide the public with the most current information. In addition to taking cyber-testimony, the council will hold seven public hearings on the proposed budget, four out in the community. A laptop computer will be available at each public hearing to take electronic testimony.



**Budget and  
Fiscal  
Management  
Committee Chair  
Jane Hague**

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Metropolitan King County Council • Room 1200 King County Courthouse • 516 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104-3272

District 1 Maggi Fimia 296-1001  
District 2 Cynthia Sullivan 296-1002  
District 3 Louise Miller 296-1003  
District 4 Larry Phillips 296-1004  
District 5 Dwight Pelz 296-1005

District 6 Rob McKenna 296-1006  
District 7 Pete von Reichbauer 296-1007  
District 8 Greg Nickels 296-1008  
District 9 Kent Pullen 296-1009  
District 10 Larry Gossett 296-1010

District 11 Jane Hague 296-1011  
District 12 Brian Derdowski 296-1012  
District 13 Chris Vance 296-1013  
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# Council prepared for 2000 budget

*from page one*

The council already held public hearings on the proposed budget Tuesday, Oct. 19 and Wednesday, Oct. 20. Following are the dates and times of the remaining public hearings:



*Councilmember Greg Nickels, vice chair of the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee*

**Bothell** – Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.  
Northshore Senior Center,  
10201 E. Riverside Drive

**Seattle** – Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers, 10<sup>th</sup> floor  
King County Courthouse, 516  
Third Ave.

*The final three public hearings on the budget proposal are scheduled to be held on Monday, Nov. 15, Saturday, Nov. 20, and Monday, Nov. 22 in Council Chambers on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of the King County Courthouse. The Saturday hearing is scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m.*

The council's review process is similar to last year. The council is divided into four distinct budget panels, each responsible for making recommendations on specific sections of the budget proposal. "The process worked so well last year that we decided to bring it back this year," said Nickels. "Last year, this council approved a budget that contained the lowest property tax adjustment in more than a decade, and called for even lower rates in the future. It was also the most open budget process I can remember, with a big increase in public involvement." The council received testimony from over 500 individuals last year.

Following is an overview of the panels:

## **Responsible Government**

Co-Chairs: Chris Vance and Dwight Pelz  
The panel will review general government

services, including licensing and regulatory services. Members of the panel will review functions critical to the operation of county government, including facilities management, records and elections, the ombudsman and tax advisor, and the King County International Airport.

## **Healthy Families and Safe Communities**

Co-Chairs: Larry Gossett and Kent Pullen  
The Healthy Families and Safe Communities Panel will review all of the criminal justice and public health functions provided by King County. The panel will look at the budgets for the county sheriff, jails, Superior and District courts, mental health, youth services and public health.

## **Environmental Quality**

Co-Chairs: Larry Phillips and Brian Derdowski  
The panel will review the budgets of some of the county's largest agencies, including the Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES), the Department of Natural Resources, as well as Parks and Recreation. The panel also will review the implementation of the county's efforts related to the Endangered Species Act.

## **Moving King County 2000**

Co-Chairs: Rob McKenna and Maggi Fimia  
Panel members will review transportation in King County, including Metro Transit, road construction and maintenance. The panel will look at improving transportation through long-range land use and transportation plans.

The full council will hold panel meetings and hearings on the proposed budget throughout the months of October and November. Councilmembers are scheduled to adopt the final budget in late November, prior to Thanksgiving.

# Council saves mobile home park

With a loan of \$1.1 million to the Manufactured Housing Community Preservationists, the King County Council will help save the Empire View Mobile Home Park from being closed.

Empire View Mobile Home Park is situated on four acres overlooking the Green River Valley. One block away is a neighborhood business district which offers convenient access to jobs, shopping and services. "These amenities make the park a desirable place to live, yet also make it desirable to developers," said Councilmember Cynthia Sullivan, who chairs the Council's Housing & Policy Planning Committee. "Over the past decade hundreds of low-income households have been displaced by park closures, and currently, four mobile home parks in the county are closing due to redevelopment," she said.

The loan comes from the Community Development Block Grant Funds, which is a

program that King County has operated since 198. The county appropriates approximately \$7 million of these funds, per year, to projects that meet federal guidelines.

This loan will preserve 51 households in the park, more than half of which are of

low to moderate-incomes. Currently, there are no vacancies in the park. The Manufactured Housing Community Preservationists have agreed that once the park is acquired, current residents will remain and new annual rents will be established based on

income screening.

"This is a great use of this fund," said Sullivan. "In this booming economy, as housing prices continue to climb, we must preserve low-income homes," she said.

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*Councilmember Cynthia Sullivan discusses issues important to the public.*

## Recent council actions

- Approved the lease and transfer of retired vanpool vehicles to 26 local non-profit and government agencies that serve the disabled, senior citizens and youth. Some of the agencies that will be receiving vans are: the Issaquah Community Center; Southwest Youth and Family Services; the Stroum Jewish Community Center; Wallingford Senior Center; and the Community Psychiatric Clinic.
- Reallocated \$200,000 in open space funds to be spent on the Redmond Watershed trail project. When complete, the project would create a 4.5-mile, 150-foot wide trail connecting the city of Redmond trail system and the Sammamish Valley Trail to the Redmond Watershed trail network. The money allocated by the council will be used to acquire the right-of-way for the county's portion of the trail.
- Held a well-attended public hearing on the proposal to include the image of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the official King County logo. The council is continuing to research issues concerning cost and copyright before making a final decision.
- Approved interlocal agreements with Redmond and Issaquah for reciprocal collection of transportation impact fees. This action will allow King County to transfer funds collected from new developments for roads to either city when the growth impacts cross jurisdictional boundaries.

**New transit advisors**  
*The council recently appointed 11 citizens to the newly created Transit Advisory Committee, with another four appointments yet to come. Members of the new committee are: Elva Gonzalez, Paulette Gust, Daniel Jenkins, Keith Jerome, Joanne Van Deurzen, Renee Marsh, Jim DiPeso, Hank Myers, Reid Brown, Ruth Korkowski and E. John Resha.*

# Public Beach, Ballfields, and Trails

County Council creates new 165-acre park at Lake Sawyer

The rapidly growing area near Black Diamond will be the site of a new 165-acre park at Lake Sawyer. Located on the south end of the lake, the park will have a public beach, ballfields and trails winding through woods and wetlands.

Approved unanimously by the council, the park at Lake Sawyer joins together Cedar River and Green River Trails, creating a recreation area comparable to Marymoor Park in Redmond.

“This area has seen a lot of growth recently, which makes this park important for the citizens of King County, especially those in south-

east King County,” said Kent Pullen, Councilmember for the 9th District which includes the Black Diamond area.

Already underway, the land purchase should be completed by the end of the month and public access to the park could begin in a few months.

“That this property was originally slated for a housing development and private marina and now will become a public park is something for which we can all be proud,” said Councilmember Larry Phillips, vice chair of the Utilities and Natural Resources committee.

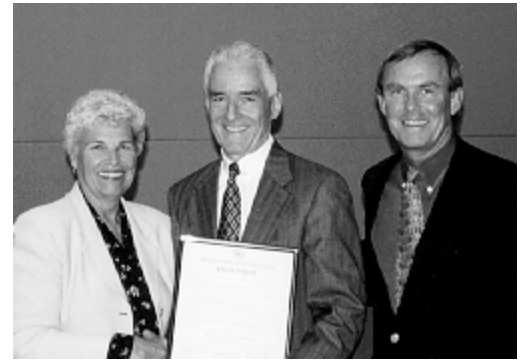


Councilmember  
Kent Pullen



Councilmember  
Larry Phillips

## What we're doing . . .



The council presented a certificate of recognition to honor Major General Greg Barlow for his outstanding accomplishments as head of the Washington National Guard. A 35-year military veteran, Barlow served as the Adjutant General under three governors. Pictured are Council Chair Louise Miller (left), Barlow (center), and Council Vice Chair Pete von Reichbauer (right).

*The information in this newsletter is available in alternate format upon request. Alternate format includes braille, large print, and/or audio. For more information, please call 296-1708, or TDD/TTY at 296-1024.*

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